(b) The following measures/steps have been taken under the Guinea-worm Eradication Programme—

1. *Active case search* operation twice a year in the endemic States to find out Guinea worm cases and monitoring impact of control measures.

2. *Provision of Safe drinking water supplies* to the Guinea worm affected villages/hamlets.

3. *Health education* is imparted through the different media by the State Health authorities. Posters and pamphlets are provided by the Central Government.

4. Chemical treatment of transmission sites with temephos.

5. Training is imparted to district health and engineering officials in the control/eradication of Guniea worm at National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

Probe into Appointment of G.S.A. by Air India in London

*336. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated the 14th November, 1986 captioned "Probe urged into firm's appointment by Air India in London"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main points mentioned in the article are: (i) the capital of the firm appointed as GSA (ii) violation of rules, assurances and affidavits (iii) no bank guarantee have been taken, (iv) letter written by 30 authorised travel agents of Air India threatening to stop sales of Air India tickets, etc.

Air India had made alternate arrangements for seling tickets through IATA agents, after the expiry of the contract with the previous G S.A. This step, however, did not produce the desired results. With a view to augment revenues, increase the uplift of passengers and after discussions with the tops agents, a decision was taken by Air India to revert to the system of appointing a GSA.

In deciding to do so and for the selection of a suitable party, Air India followed its well laid down procedure, including discussions with the applicants. The agency finally selected, fulfilled the criteria and had also produced best results.

Rate of Road Accidents

*337. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study by the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre, rate of road accidents in India, which has already been one of the highest in the world, has increased by 9 per cent a year during the period from 1960 to 1983 and fatalities by 12 per cent and annual loss attributed thereto at present comes to about Rs. 350 crores;

(b) whether the study also reveals that the rate of accidents is likely to further increase by about four times in the next 15 years; and

(c) if so, what according to the study are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.